



*Dennis J. Duffin*  
Director

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of  
Campaign & Political Finance*

*One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108*

*727-8352*

April 9, 1984

AO-1984-07

Haden G. Greenhalgh  
State Representative  
Room 242A  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Greenhalgh:

This letter is in response to your recent request for an advisory opinion relative to G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law.

You have stated that in October 1983 you began a search relative towards running for Congress from the Tenth Congressional District. Certain expenses were incurred, such as a trip to Washington, mileage within the district, and meals, totalling approximately \$1300.00. During early February 1984, your political committee, registered with this office, received several contributions. You state that your committee account now contains approximately \$1,350.00. You wish to be reimbursed for the expense described above from your political committee, and request a response as to whether this would be permissible under the campaign finance law.

Section 6 of Chapter 55 provides that political committees such as yours "may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate or the principle for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use,..." In my opinion appropriate expenses, the purposes of which are not primarily for personal use, relative to pursuing your candidacy for federal office could enhance your political future. However, such activities of your political committee are subject to certain limitations. As was stated in M-102, a Memorandum issued by this office on January 23, 1984,

"Your state political committee has been primarily organized for the purpose of campaign finance activity in Massachusetts state or local elections. While you may have incidental campaign activity while determining your possible candidacy for federal office, when you become a candidate for federal office, you should establish a political committee in accordance with federal law, and utilize that committee for campaign finance activity for federal election purposes."

Finally, if your political committee could make certain expenditures, it may also reimburse you for any of those expenditures which you made yourself.

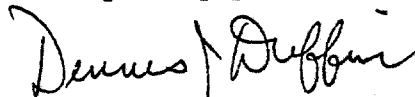
Representative Greenhalgh

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In accordance with the above, it is my opinion that the expenditures described above would be permissible under c. 55. Therefore, your political committee may reimburse you for the expenses incurred by you as described above. In applying for reimbursement from your committee, you should supply the committee with the details of these expenses including receipts and vouchers and the committee should disclose this information on the appropriate campaign finance report.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Duffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

Dennis J. Duffin  
Director

DJD/rep